

Carleton University
Department of Political Science

Fall 2009

PSCI 1001P
Great Political Questions
Wednesdays 11:35a.m.-1:25p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Marc Hanvelt
Office: Loeb D644
Office Hours: Mondays 1:35-2:25, Wednesdays 10:35-11:25, or by appointment
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Course Description:

Patrick Henry famously demanded, “give me liberty, or give me death!” The image of Mel Gibson as William Wallace, face painted blue, proclaiming, “they may take away our lives, but they’ll never take our freedom” is seared into the mind of many. Nelson Mandela has famously claimed that there is “no easy walk to freedom.” Wars have been fought in the name of liberty. People have died for freedom. During the Cold War, the West named itself the “free world.” We have freedom fighters and songs of freedom. Some restaurants have even served “freedom fries.” But what does this word actually mean? What is freedom? We use the words liberty and freedom regularly and, most often, without any concern that our meaning might be unclear. But the meaning of freedom is contested. In this course, we will study different and competing conceptions of freedom. By the end of the term, students should have gained a greater appreciation of the very complex nature of this concept that is at the heart of so many world issues today.

Required Texts:

Available at the Carleton University Bookstore

- ◆ Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *The Basic Political Writings*
- ◆ John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty and Other Essays*
- ◆ David Miller (ed.): *The Liberty Reader*

WebCT: [<http://webct6.carleton.ca>]

Important course announcements and course materials (syllabus, discussion questions, essay questions) will be posted on WebCT. Please ensure that you have access to WebCT and consult it regularly.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

- ♦ Discussion Paper 20% (**Due October 28**)
- ♦ Essay 35% (**Due December 2**)
- ♦ Final Examination 35% (**During formal exam period: December 9-22**)
- ♦ Participation 10%

Note: This course does not lend itself to early feedback. The first assigned work will not be returned to you until after November 6 which is the last day to withdraw from fall term courses. If you have any questions or concerns about your progress in the course, please arrange to meet with me prior to November 6. I will be more than happy to discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

Discussion Paper

Students will be required to write a short discussion paper worth 20% of their final grade. The paper must be 3-4 pages in length. Students will choose from four possible questions. Two of these will focus on Rousseau, two on Mill. The questions will be posted on WebCT. The paper will be due at the beginning of your tutorial on **October 28**.

Essay

Each student will be required to submit one essay worth 35% of their final grade for the course. The essays must be 6-8 pages in length. Students will have a choice of essay questions, all of which will be thematic in nature and require discussion of several different thinkers. The essay questions will be posted on WebCT. The essay will be due at the beginning of your tutorial on **December 2**.

Submission of Written Assignments

Discussion papers and essays must be double spaced (12 point font, margins of at least ¾ inch). Please do not put your written work into any sort of binder or folder. Simply staple your work in the upper left-hand corner.

A template for the title page of the essay and the discussion paper will be posted on WebCT. All essays MUST include a title page that conforms to this template. Papers submitted without the required title page **will not be accepted**.

Students must submit a physical copy of their discussion paper and essay. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Late submissions will be assessed a penalty (see below).

Students who are unable to submit their written assignments on time may deposit them in the Departmental “Drop Box” (a mail slot in the wall) located in the corridor outside of room B640 Loeb. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day.

Late Penalties:

Written assignments submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day (**including Saturdays and Sundays**). Assignments submitted on the due date but after the beginning of the tutorial will be considered late and will be assessed a penalty of 1.5%.

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor and only for serious and **documented** medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Requests for extensions submitted after the due date will not be considered. It is the students' responsibility to manage their time effectively.

Tutorial Participation

Tutorial participation is an integral component of this course. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of their TA, engage critically with the course readings and, through discourse with their fellow students, develop better and more nuanced understandings of the ideas and debates that we will be covering in the course.

Each student's tutorial participation grade (worth 10% of the final grade) will be based on the quality (not necessarily the quantity) of his or her participation in the tutorial discussions. In order to earn a top grade for participation, a student must contribute positively to the learning atmosphere of his or her tutorial group. Among other requirements, this entails regular attendance, participation that is respectful of other students and the TA, and demonstration that the student has done the week's reading, thought critically about it in advance of the tutorial session, and arrived prepared to pose questions and critically discuss the reading with his or her fellow students.

Final Examination

The final examination will be held during the regularly scheduled exam period (December 9-22). It will be cumulative (i.e. all material covered in the course will be examinable), and will be comprised of essay questions. The final examination will count for 35% of each student's final grade.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that involves presenting another person's ideas, arguments, or words as one's own either through deliberate fraud or on account of inaccurate or improper documentation. The penalties for plagiarism are very severe.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their professor if they have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

Academic Support:

If you require research, computer or learning support services, please consult the Carleton University Learning Commons at http://www.library.carleton.ca/learning_commons/

For help with academic writing and related issues, please consult the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (<http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

Course Schedule:

Lecture 1 (Sept. 16): Introduction and distribution of syllabus

Lecture 2 (Sept. 23): Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* (Book I; Book II, ch.I-VI)

Lecture 3 (Sept. 30): Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* (Book II, ch.VII-XII; Book IV, ch.I-II, VII-VIII)

Lecture 4 (Oct. 7): Mill, *On Liberty* (I, III)

Lecture 5 (Oct. 14): Mill, *On Liberty* (IV)

Lecture 6 (Oct. 21): Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"

Lecture 7 (Oct. 28): Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?"

- **Discussion Paper Due in Tutorial**

Lecture 8 (Nov. 4): Skinner, "A Third Concept of Liberty"

Lecture 9 (Nov. 11): Arendt, "Freedom and Politics"

Lecture 10 (Nov. 18): Hayek, "Freedom and Coercion"

Lecture 11 (Nov. 25): Cohen, "Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat"

Lecture 12 (Dec. 2): Miller, "Constraints on Freedom"

- **Essay Due in Tutorial**

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 for April examinations**.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment

returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.